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REP. DEBRA KOLSTE RESPONSE TO STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Kolste: "State Should Focus on Middle Class, Public Education"

(MADISON) – Rep. Debra Kolste (D-Janesville) released the following statement following Governor Scott Walker’s State of the State address:

The governor’s speech would have been a great stump speech for an Iowa Republican caucus, but I didn’t hear any ideas for how to address the concerns of working families in Wisconsin, especially as neighboring states have stronger positions for economic growth.

We need answers to the economic situation that Governor Walker has created – answers to the budget deficit, to our lagging job creation, and to stagnant wage growth.

We need real answers for the best way to institute new school accountability standards. I believe in our public schools, and school voucher proponents are trying to create two school systems. The only acceptable school accountability system will create identical – not separate but equal – statewide standards. This country has tried the “separate but equal” approach, and we know it doesn’t work.

We need answers for how our local governments can fix crumbling roads and bridges. Under Governor Walker, local governments have lost the ability to adequately maintain basic infrastructure.

While the governor’s speech was fit for a campaign kickoff, it didn’t address any of the important questions facing our state.

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